



General Assembly

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Amendment

LCO No. 5548

SB0043805548HDO

Offered by:

REP. FLEISCHMANN, 18th Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13th Dist.

REP. DONOVAN, 84th Dist.

REP. MERRILL, 54th Dist.

REP. BARTLETT, 2nd Dist.

REP. MCCRORY, 7th Dist.

REP. MILLER P., 145th Dist.

REP. HOLDER-WINFIELD, 94th Dist.

REP. CANDELARIA, 95th Dist.

REP. GREEN, 1st Dist.

REP. CLEMONS, 124th Dist.

REP. ROBLES, 6th Dist.

REP. HEWETT, 39th Dist.

REP. SANTIAGO, 130th Dist.

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

REP. BUTLER, 72nd Dist.

REP. ROJAS, 9th Dist.

REP. ROLDAN, 4th Dist.

REP. MORRIS, 140th Dist.

REP. ALDARONDO, 75th Dist.

REP. KIRKLEY-BEY, 5th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 438

File No. 593

Cal. No. 474

(As Amended By Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

"AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS."

1 Strike subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of
2 section 3 and insert the following in lieu thereof:

3 "(A) In addition to performance on state-wide mastery examinations
4 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, data relating to students shall
5 include, but not be limited to, (i) the primary language spoken at the
6 home of a student, (ii) student transcripts, (iii) student attendance and

7 student mobility, and (iv) reliable, valid assessments of a student's
8 readiness to enter public school at the kindergarten level;"

9 Strike section 7 in its entirety and renumber the remaining sections
10 and internal references accordingly

11 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
12 internal references accordingly:

13 "Sec. 501. Section 10-223e of the general statutes is repealed and the
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

15 (a) In conformance with the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110,
16 the Commissioner of Education shall prepare a state-wide education
17 accountability plan, consistent with federal law and regulation. Such
18 plan shall identify the schools and districts in need of improvement,
19 require the development and implementation of improvement plans
20 and utilize rewards and consequences.

21 (b) Public schools identified by the State Board of Education
22 pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, revision of 1958,
23 revised to January 1, 2001, as schools in need of improvement shall: (1)
24 Continue to be identified as schools in need of improvement, and
25 continue to operate under school improvement plans developed
26 pursuant to said section 10-223b through June 30, 2004; (2) on or before
27 February 1, 2003, be evaluated by the local board of education and
28 determined to be making sufficient or insufficient progress; (3) if found
29 to be making insufficient progress by a local board of education, be
30 subject to a new remediation and organization plan developed by the
31 local board of education; (4) continue to be eligible for available federal
32 or state aid; (5) beginning in February, 2003, be monitored by the
33 Department of Education for adequate yearly progress, as defined in
34 the state accountability plan prepared in accordance with subsection
35 (a) of this section; and (6) be subject to rewards and consequences as
36 defined in said plan.

37 (c) (1) Any school or school district identified as in need of

38 improvement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and requiring
39 corrective action pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left
40 Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be designated and listed as a low
41 achieving school or school district and shall be subject to intensified
42 supervision and direction by the State Board of Education.

43 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of this title or any regulation
44 adopted pursuant to said statutes, except as provided in subdivision
45 (3) of this subsection, in carrying out the provisions of subdivision (1)
46 of this subsection, the State Board of Education shall take any of the
47 following actions to improve student performance and remove the
48 school or district from the list of schools or districts designated and
49 listed as a low achieving school or district pursuant to said subdivision
50 (1), and to address other needs of the school or district: (A) Require an
51 operations audit to identify possible programmatic savings and an
52 instructional audit to identify any deficits in curriculum and
53 instruction or in the learning environment of the school or district; (B)
54 require the local or regional board of education for such school or
55 district to use state and federal funds for critical needs, as directed by
56 the State Board of Education; (C) provide incentives to attract highly
57 qualified teachers and principals; (D) direct the transfer and
58 assignment of teachers and principals; (E) require additional training
59 and technical assistance for parents and guardians of children
60 attending the school or a school in the district and for teachers,
61 principals, and central office staff members hired by the district; (F)
62 require the local or regional board of education for the school or
63 district to implement model curriculum, including, but not limited to,
64 recommended textbooks, materials and supplies approved by the
65 Department of Education; (G) identify schools for reconstitution, as
66 may be phased in by the commissioner, as state or local charter
67 schools, schools established pursuant to section 10-74g, innovation
68 schools established pursuant to section 6 of this act, or schools based
69 on other models for school improvement, or for management by an
70 entity other than the local or regional board of education for the
71 district in which the school is located; (H) direct the local or regional

72 board of education for the school or district to develop and implement
73 a plan addressing deficits in achievement and in the learning
74 environment as recommended in the instructional audit; (I) assign a
75 technical assistance team to the school or district to guide school or
76 district initiatives and report progress to the Commissioner of
77 Education; (J) establish instructional and learning environment
78 benchmarks for the school or district to meet as it progresses toward
79 removal from the list of low achieving schools or districts; (K) provide
80 funding to any proximate district to a district designated as a low
81 achieving school district so that students in a low achieving district
82 may attend public school in a neighboring district; (L) direct the
83 establishment of learning academies within schools that require
84 continuous monitoring of student performance by teacher groups; (M)
85 require local and regional boards of education to (i) undergo training
86 to improve their operational efficiency and effectiveness as leaders of
87 their districts' improvement plans, and (ii) submit an annual action
88 plan to the Commissioner of Education outlining how, when and in
89 what manner their effectiveness shall be monitored; or (N) any
90 combination of the actions described in this subdivision or similar,
91 closely related actions.

92 (3) If a directive of the State Board of Education pursuant to
93 subparagraph (C), (D), (E), (G) or (L) of subdivision (2) of this
94 subsection or a directive to implement a plan pursuant to
95 subparagraph (H) of said subdivision affects working conditions, such
96 directive shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of
97 sections 10-153a to 10-153n, inclusive.

98 (4) The Comptroller shall, pursuant to the provisions of section 10-
99 262i, withhold any grant funds that a town is otherwise required to
100 appropriate to a local or regional board of education due to low
101 academic achievement in the school district pursuant to section 10-
102 262h. Said funds shall be transferred to the Department of Education
103 and shall be expended by the department on behalf of the identified
104 school district. Said funds shall be used to implement the provisions of
105 subdivision (2) of this subsection and to offset such other local

106 education costs that the Commissioner of Education deems
107 appropriate to achieve school improvements. These funds shall be
108 awarded by the commissioner to the local or regional board of
109 education for such identified school district upon condition that said
110 funds shall be spent in accordance with the directives of the
111 commissioner.

112 (d) The State Board of Education shall monitor the progress of each
113 school or district designated as a low achieving school or district
114 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section and provide
115 notice to the local or regional board of education for each such school
116 or district of the school or district's progress toward meeting the
117 benchmarks established by the State Board of Education pursuant to
118 subsection (c) of this section. If a district fails to make acceptable
119 progress toward meeting such benchmarks established by the State
120 Board of Education and fails to make adequate yearly progress
121 pursuant to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L.
122 107-110, for two consecutive years while designated as a low achieving
123 school district, the State Board of Education, after consultation with the
124 Governor and chief elected official or officials of the district, may (1)
125 request that the General Assembly enact legislation authorizing that
126 control of the district be reassigned to the State Board of Education or
127 other authorized entity, or (2) notwithstanding the provisions of
128 chapter 146, any special act, charter or ordinance, grant the
129 Commissioner of Education the authority to reconstitute the local or
130 regional board of education for such school district in accordance with
131 the provisions of subsection (h) of this section.

132 (e) Any school district or elementary school after two successive
133 years of failing to make adequate yearly progress shall be designated
134 as a low achieving school district or school and shall be evaluated by
135 the Commissioner of Education. After such evaluation, the
136 commissioner may require that such school district or school provide
137 full-day kindergarten classes, summer school, extended school day,
138 weekend classes, tutorial assistance to its students or professional
139 development to its administrators, principals, teachers and

140 paraprofessional teacher aides if (1) on any subpart of the third grade
141 state-wide mastery examination, thirty per cent or more of the students
142 in any subgroup, as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-
143 110, do not achieve the level of proficiency or higher, or (2) the
144 commissioner determines that it would be in the best educational
145 interests of the school or the school district to have any of these
146 programs. In ordering any educational program authorized by this
147 subsection, the commissioner may limit the offering of the program to
148 the subgroup of students that have failed to achieve proficiency as
149 determined by this subsection, those in particular grades or those who
150 are otherwise at substantial risk of educational failure. The costs of
151 instituting the ordered educational programs shall be borne by the
152 identified low achieving school district or the school district in which
153 an identified low achieving school is located. The commissioner shall
154 not order an educational program that costs more to implement than
155 the total increase in the amount of the grant that a town receives
156 pursuant to section 10-262i in any fiscal year above the prior fiscal
157 year.

158 (f) The Commissioner of Education shall conduct a study, within the
159 limits of the capacity of the Department of Education to perform such
160 study, of academic achievement of individual students over time as
161 measured by performance on the state-wide mastery examination in
162 grades three to eight, inclusive. If this study evidences a pattern of
163 continuous and substantial growth in educational performance on said
164 examinations for individual students, then the commissioner may
165 determine that the school district or elementary school shall not be
166 subject to the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, but shall
167 still comply with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act,
168 P.L. 107-110, if applicable.

169 (g) (1) (A) On and after July 1, 2010, the local or regional board of
170 education for a school that has been identified as in need of
171 improvement pursuant to subsection (a) of this section may establish a
172 school governance council for each school so identified.

173 (B) On and after July 1, 2010, the local or regional board of
174 education for a school that has been designated as a low achieving
175 school, pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, due
176 to such school failing to make adequate yearly progress in
177 mathematics and reading at the whole school level shall establish a
178 school governance council for each school so designated.

179 (2) (A) The school governance council for high schools shall consist
180 of (i) seven members who shall be parents or guardians of students
181 attending the school, (ii) two members who shall be community
182 leaders within the school district, (iii) five members who shall be
183 teachers at the school, (iv) one nonvoting member who is the principal
184 of the school, or his or her designee, and (v) two nonvoting student
185 members who shall be students at the school. The parent or guardian
186 members shall be elected by the parents or guardians of students
187 attending the school, provided, for purposes of the election, each
188 household with a student attending the school shall have one vote. The
189 community leader members shall be elected by the parent or guardian
190 members and teacher members of the school governance council. The
191 teacher members shall be elected by the teachers of the school. The
192 nonvoting student members shall be elected by the student body of the
193 school.

194 (B) The school governance council for elementary and middle
195 schools shall consist of (i) seven members who shall be parents or
196 guardians of students attending the school, (ii) two members who shall
197 be community leaders within the school district, (iii) five members
198 who shall be teachers at the school, and (iv) one nonvoting member
199 who is the principal of the school, or his or her designee. The parent or
200 guardian members shall be elected by the parents or guardians of
201 students attending the school, provided, for purposes of the election,
202 each household with a student attending the school shall have one
203 vote. The community leader members shall be elected by the parent or
204 guardian members and teacher members of the school governance
205 council. The teacher members shall be elected by the teachers of the
206 school.

207 (C) Terms of voting members elected pursuant to this subdivision
208 shall be for two years and no members shall serve more than two
209 terms on the council. The nonvoting student members shall serve one
210 year and no student member shall serve more than two terms on the
211 council.

212 (D) (i) Schools that have been designated as a low achieving school
213 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section due to such
214 school failing to make adequate yearly progress in mathematics and
215 reading at the whole school level prior to July 1, 2010, and are among
216 the lowest five per cent of schools in the state based on achievement
217 shall establish a school governance council for the school not later than
218 January 15, 2011.

219 (ii) Schools that have been designated as a low achieving school,
220 pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, due to such
221 school failing to make adequate yearly progress in mathematics and
222 reading at the whole school level prior to July 1, 2010, but are not
223 among the lowest five per cent of schools in the state based on
224 achievement, shall establish a school governance council for the school
225 not later than November 1, 2011.

226 (3) The school governance council shall have the following
227 responsibilities: (A) Analyzing school achievement data and school
228 needs relative to the improvement plan for the school prepared
229 pursuant to this section; (B) reviewing the fiscal objectives of the draft
230 budget for the school and providing advice to the principal of the
231 school before such school's budget is submitted to the superintendent
232 of schools for the district; (C) participating in the hiring process of the
233 school principal or other administrators of the school by conducting
234 interviews of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the
235 superintendent of schools for the school district and the local and
236 regional board of education; (D) assisting the principal of the school in
237 making programmatic and operational changes for improving the
238 school's achievement, including program changes, adjusting school
239 hours and days of operation, and enrollment goals for the school; (E)

240 working with the school administration to develop and approve a
241 school compact for parents, legal guardians and students that includes
242 an outline of the criteria and responsibilities for enrollment and school
243 membership consistent with the school's goals and academic focus,
244 and the ways that parents and school personnel can build a
245 partnership to improve student learning; (F) developing and
246 approving a written parent involvement policy that outlines the role of
247 parents and legal guardians in the school; (G) utilizing records relating
248 to information about parents and guardians of students maintained by
249 the local or regional board of education for the sole purpose of the
250 election described in subdivision (2) of this subsection. Such
251 information shall be confidential and shall only be disclosed as
252 provided in this subparagraph and shall not be further disclosed; and
253 (H) if the council determines it necessary and subject to the provisions
254 of subdivision (9) of this subsection recommending reconstitution of
255 the school in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (6) of this
256 subsection.

257 (4) The school governance council may: (A) In those schools that
258 require an improvement plan, review the annual draft report detailing
259 the goals set forth in the state accountability plan prepared in
260 accordance with subsection (a) of this section and provide advice to the
261 principal of the school prior to submission of the report to the
262 superintendent of schools; (B) in those schools where an improvement
263 plan becomes required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, assist
264 the principal of the school in developing such plan prior to its
265 submission to the superintendent of schools; (C) work with the
266 principal of the school to develop, conduct and report the results of an
267 annual survey of parents, guardians and teachers on issues related to
268 the school climate and conditions; and (D) provide advice on any other
269 major policy matters affecting the school to the principal of the school,
270 except on any matters relating to provisions of any collective
271 bargaining agreement between the exclusive bargaining unit for
272 teachers pursuant to section 10-153b and local or regional boards of
273 education.

274 (5) The local or regional board of education shall provide
275 appropriate training and instruction to members of the school
276 governance council to aid them in the execution of their duties.

277 (6) (A) The school governance council may, by an affirmative vote of
278 the council, recommend the reconstitution of the school into one of the
279 following models: (i) The turnaround model, as described in the
280 Federal Register of December 10, 2009; (ii) the restart model, as
281 described in the Federal Register of December 10, 2009; (iii) the
282 transformation model, as described in the Federal Register of
283 December 10, 2009; (iv) any other model that may be developed by
284 federal law; (v) a CommPACT school, pursuant to section 10-74g; or
285 (vi) an innovation school, pursuant to section 6 of this act. Not later
286 than ten days after the school governance council informs the local or
287 regional board of education of its recommendation for the school, such
288 board shall hold a public hearing to discuss such vote of the school
289 governance council and shall, at the next regularly scheduled meeting
290 of such board or ten days after such public hearing, whichever is later,
291 conduct a vote to accept the model recommended by the school
292 governance council, select an alternative model described in this
293 subdivision or maintain the current school status. If the board selects
294 an alternative model, the board shall meet with such school
295 governance council to discuss an agreement on which alternative to
296 adopt not later than ten days after such vote of the board. If no such
297 agreement can be achieved, not later than forty-five days after the last
298 such meeting between the board and the school governance council,
299 the Commissioner of Education shall decide which of the alternatives
300 to implement. If the board votes to maintain the current school status,
301 not later than forty-five days after such vote of the board, the
302 Commissioner of Education shall decide whether to implement the
303 model recommended by the school governance council or to maintain
304 the current school status. If the final decision pursuant to this
305 subdivision is adoption of a model, the local or regional board of
306 education shall implement such model during the subsequent school
307 year in conformance with the general statutes and applicable

308 regulations, and the provisions specified in federal regulations and
309 guidelines for schools subject to restructuring pursuant to Section
310 1116(b)(8) of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110 or any other
311 applicable federal laws or regulations.

312 (B) Any school governance council for a school may recommend
313 reconstitution, pursuant to subparagraph (H) of subdivision (3) of this
314 subsection, during the third year after such school governance council
315 was established if the school for such governance council has not
316 reconstituted as a result of receiving a school improvement grant
317 pursuant to Section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary
318 Education Act, 20 USC 6301 et seq., or such reconstitution was initiated
319 by a source other than the school governance council.

320 (7) A school governance council shall be considered a component of
321 parental involvement for purposes of federal funding pursuant to
322 Section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110.

323 (8) The Commissioner of Education shall evaluate the school
324 governance councils established on or before January 15, 2011, based
325 on the criteria described in subsection (a) of section 502 of this act. On
326 or before October 1, 2014, the commissioner shall report, in accordance
327 with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of
328 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
329 education on the evaluation conducted pursuant to this subdivision.
330 Such report shall also include recommendations whether to continue
331 to allow school governance councils to recommend reconstitution
332 pursuant to this subsection.

333 (9) The department shall allow not more than twenty-five schools
334 per school year to reconstitute pursuant to this subsection. The
335 department shall notify school districts and school governance
336 councils when this limit has been reached. For purposes of this
337 subdivision, a reconstitution shall be counted towards this limit upon
338 receipt by the department of notification of a final decision regarding
339 reconstitution by the local or regional board of education.

340 (h) The State Board of Education may authorize the Commissioner
341 of Education to reconstitute a local or regional board of education
342 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (d) of this section for a period
343 of not more than five years. The board shall not grant such authority to
344 the commissioner unless the board has required the local or regional
345 board of education to complete the training described in subparagraph
346 (M) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section. Upon such
347 authorization by the board, the commissioner shall terminate the
348 existing local or regional board of education and appoint the members
349 of a new local or regional board of education for the school district.
350 Such appointed members may include members of the board of
351 education that was terminated. The terms of the members of the new
352 board of education shall be three years. The department of education
353 shall offer training to the members of the new board of education. The
354 new board of education shall annually report to the commissioner
355 regarding the district's progress toward meeting the benchmarks
356 established by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (c)
357 of this section and making adequate yearly progress, as defined in the
358 state accountability plan prepared in accordance with subsection (a) of
359 this section. If the district fails to show adequate improvement, as
360 determined by the State Board of Education, after three years, the
361 commissioner may reappoint the members of the new board of
362 education or appoint new members to such board of education for
363 terms of two years.

364 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) The Department of
365 Education shall monitor, within available appropriations, those
366 schools that have reconstituted pursuant to subsection (g) of section
367 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, to determine
368 whether such schools have demonstrated progress with regard to the
369 following indicators: (1) The reconstitution model adopted by the
370 school; (2) the length of the school day and school year; (3) the number
371 and type of disciplinary incidents; (4) the number of truants; (5) the
372 dropout rate; (6) the student attendance rate; (7) the average scale
373 scores on the state-wide mastery examination pursuant to section 10-

374 14n of the general statutes; (8) for high schools, the number and
375 percentage of students completing advanced placement coursework;
376 (9) the teacher attendance rate; and (10) the existence and size of the
377 parent-teacher organization for the school. Such monitoring shall be
378 conducted over the two-year period following such reconstitution.

379 (b) On or before January 1, 2012, the department shall report, in
380 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
381 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
382 cognizance of matters relating to education on (1) the number of school
383 governance councils established pursuant to subsection (g) of section
384 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) the
385 number of schools that have been reconstituted and the models, as
386 described in said subsection (g), that have been adopted as part of such
387 reconstitution.

388 (c) On or before January 1, 2013, the department shall report, in
389 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
390 to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
391 cognizance of matters relating to education on (1) the monitoring
392 conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, (2)
393 recommendations relating to changes in the reconstitution options
394 available to schools, including whether school governance councils
395 may continue to recommend reconstitution pursuant to subsection (g)
396 of section 10-223e of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (3)
397 comparison of the models adopted, and (4) the level of progress of
398 schools adopting each model in relation to the indicators described in
399 subsection (a) of this section.

400 Sec. 503. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) On or before July 1, 2011,
401 and biennially thereafter, the Department of Education shall report,
402 within available appropriations, in accordance with the provisions of
403 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of
404 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
405 education on (1) the number of such school governance councils that
406 have initiated reconstitution pursuant to subsection (g) of section 10-

407 223 of the general statutes, (2) a comparison of those school
408 governance councils that have initiated such reconstitution and those
409 that have not, and (3) whether parental involvement has increased at
410 those schools with school governance councils.

411 (b) On or before July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the
412 department shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section
413 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the
414 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
415 on the evaluations conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

416 Sec. 504. Section 17b-751 of the 2010 supplement to the general
417 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
418 (*Effective from passage*):

419 (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of
420 which shall be used by the council established pursuant to subsection
421 (b) of this section and the Commissioner of Social Services with the
422 advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council to fund programs aimed
423 at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs.
424 Said fund is intended to be in addition to those resources that would
425 otherwise be appropriated by the state for programs aimed at
426 preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The
427 Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may apply for
428 and accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust
429 Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by
430 federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made
431 pursuant to section 17a-18. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the
432 commissioner may solicit and accept funds, on behalf of the Children's
433 Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect
434 and family resource programs. The Commissioner of Social Services,
435 with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council, shall adopt
436 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
437 administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs
438 seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the
439 Children's Trust Fund. [The Parent Trust Fund, established pursuant

440 to subsection (c) of this section, may receive funds directed to it
441 through the Children's Trust Fund.]

442 (b) There shall be established, within existing resources, a Children's
443 Trust Fund Council which shall be within the Department of Social
444 Services. The council shall be composed of sixteen members as follows:
445 (1) The Commissioners of Social Services, Education, Children and
446 Families and Public Health, or their designees; (2) a representative of
447 the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by
448 the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) a representative of the
449 business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the
450 speaker of the House of Representatives; (4) a representative of the
451 business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the
452 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (5) a representative of
453 the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by
454 the minority leader of the Senate; (6) a parent, appointed by the
455 majority leader of the House of Representatives; (7) a parent,
456 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (8) a parent, appointed
457 by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (9) a person with expertise
458 in child abuse prevention, appointed by the speaker of the House of
459 Representatives; (10) a person with expertise in child abuse prevention,
460 appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (11)
461 a staff member of a child abuse prevention program, appointed by the
462 minority leader of the Senate; (12) a staff member of a child abuse
463 prevention program, appointed by the majority leader of the House of
464 Representatives; and (13) a pediatrician, appointed by the majority
465 leader of the Senate. The council shall solicit and accept funds, on
466 behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of
467 child abuse and neglect and family resource programs, [or on behalf of
468 the Parent Trust Fund, to be used for parent community involvement
469 to improve the health, safety and education of children,] and shall
470 make grants to programs pursuant to [subsections] subsection (a) [and
471 (c)] of this section.

472 [(c) There is established a Parent Trust Fund which shall be used to
473 fund programs aimed at improving the health, safety and education of

474 children by training parents in civic leadership skills and supporting
475 increased, sustained, quality parental engagement in community
476 affairs. The fund shall receive federal or private money from grants
477 and gifts made pursuant to section 17a-18.]

478 [(d)] (c) On or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the
479 Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner shall report, in
480 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and
481 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
482 cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and
483 education concerning the source and amount of funds received by the
484 Children's Trust Fund, [and the Parent Trust Fund,] and the manner in
485 which such funds were administered and disbursed.

486 Sec. 505. Section 17b-12 of the 2010 supplement to the general
487 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
488 (*Effective from passage*):

489 The Commissioner of Social Services may accept and receive, on
490 behalf of the Department of Social Services or on behalf of the
491 Children's Trust Fund [or the Parent Trust Fund] established pursuant
492 to section 17b-751, as amended by this act, any bequest or gift of
493 personal property for services for a person who is, or members of
494 whose immediate family are, receiving assistance or services from the
495 Department of Social Services, or both, or for services for a former or
496 potential recipient of assistance from the Department of Social Services
497 or for programs or services described in section 17b-751, as amended
498 by this act. Any federal funds generated by virtue of any such bequest
499 or gift may be used for the extension of services to such person or
500 family members.

501 Sec. 506. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) There is established a Parent
502 Trust Fund, the resources of which shall be used by the Commissioner
503 of Education to fund programs aimed at improving the health, safety
504 and education of children by training parents in civic leadership skills
505 and supporting increased, sustained, quality parental engagement in

506 community affairs. The commissioner may accept on behalf of the fund
507 any federal funds or private grants or gifts made for purposes of this
508 section. The fund may receive state funds. The commissioner shall use
509 such funds to make grants to programs for purposes described in this
510 section.

511 Sec. 507. (*Effective from passage*) The unexpended balance of funds in
512 the Parent Trust Fund, established under section 17b-751 of the general
513 statutes, revision of January 1, 2009, shall be transferred to the Parent
514 Trust Fund established under section 506 of this act.

515 Sec. 508. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) A local or regional board of
516 education for a school district with a dropout rate of eight per cent or
517 greater in the previous school year, shall establish an online credit
518 recovery program. Such program shall allow those students who are
519 identified by certified personnel as in danger of failing to graduate to
520 complete on-line coursework approved by the local or regional board
521 of education for credit toward meeting the high school graduation
522 requirement pursuant to section 10-221a of the general statutes, as
523 amended by this act. Each school in the school district shall designate,
524 from among existing staff, an online learning coordinator who shall
525 administer and coordinate the online credit recovery program
526 pursuant to this section.

527 Sec. 509. Subsection (f) of section 10-221 of the general statutes is
528 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
529 *1, 2010*):

530 (f) Not later than September 1, 1998, each local and regional board of
531 education shall develop, adopt and implement written policies and
532 procedures to encourage parent-teacher communication. These policies
533 and procedures may include monthly newsletters, required regular
534 contact with all parents, flexible parent-teacher conferences, drop-in
535 hours for parents, home visits and the use of technology such as
536 homework hot lines to allow parents to check on their children's
537 assignments and students to get assistance if needed. For the school

538 year commencing July 1, 2010, and each school year thereafter, such
539 policies and procedures shall require the district to conduct two
540 flexible parent-teacher conferences for each school year.

541 Sec. 510. (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) There is established a task force to
542 study and monitor the academic achievement gap between racial and
543 socioeconomic groups in Connecticut by considering effective
544 approaches to closing the achievement gap in elementary, middle and
545 high schools. The task force shall consider, but not be limited to, the
546 following: (1) Systematic education planning; (2) best practices in
547 public education; (3) professional development for teachers; and (4)
548 parental involvement in public education.

549 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

550 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

551 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

552 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
553 Representatives;

554 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

555 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
556 Representatives;

557 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

558 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee.

559 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
560 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
561 of the General Assembly.

562 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
563 August 1, 2010, and shall reflect the geographic and cultural diversity
564 of the state and shall have experience in business, education and
565 philanthropic organizations. Any vacancy shall be filled by the

566 appointing authority.

567 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
568 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
569 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
570 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no
571 later than September 1, 2010.

572 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
573 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
574 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

575 (g) Not later than January 1, 2011, the task force shall submit a
576 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
577 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
578 relating to education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
579 4a of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date
580 that it submits such report or January 1, 2011, whichever is later.

581 Sec. 511. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) For the school year
582 commencing July 1, 2011, and each school year thereafter, each local
583 and regional board of education shall provide an advanced placement
584 course program. For purposes of this section, "advanced placement
585 course program" means a program that provides courses at the high
586 school level for which an advanced placement examination is available
587 through the College Board.

588 (b) The State Board of Education shall develop guidelines to aid
589 local and regional boards of education in training teachers for teaching
590 advanced placement courses to a diverse student body."